

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please replace the drawings as filed with the replacement sheets attached hereto.

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REMARKS

The Office action of August 23, 2007, has been carefully considered.

Objection has been raised to the drawings on the basis that the feature of Claim 10 is not shown. The claims have now been rewritten so that features not shown in the drawings are not claimed.

The specification has been amended to correct the title, to add proper subject matter headings and to remove references to specific claim numbers. The drawings have been amended to correct the spelling of "Figure."

Claims 1-4, 7-9 and 11-13 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,966,132 to Jacobsen et al. Claims 5 and 6 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Jacobsen et al in view of Edvardsen, and claim 10 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Jacobsen et al.

Claims 1-13 have now been canceled and replaced by a new set of Claims 14-23. Claim 14 is directed to a device for removal of cuttings from a borehole with the use of an ejector, comprising a first unit in the form of an ROV including a rigidly attached ejector pump and a connecting hose attached to the ejection pump, the connecting hose terminating at an opposite end in a first coupling part. A second unit comprises an ejector attached at a suction portion to a suction hose and having an inlet provided with a second coupling part. The first coupling part and the second coupling part are constructed and arranged for selective connection to one another to form a coupling between the ejector and the connecting hose.

Claims 22 and 23 are directed to the embodiment shown in Figure 5 in which the suction inlet of the ejector is coupled directly to the guide base around a borehole, and the ejector has an outlet side connected to a discharge hose.

Jacobsen et al discloses an apparatus for removal of cuttings from a borehole with the use of an ejector, in which there is an ROV with rigidly attached ejector pump 12. The Office action alleges that the ROV with ejector pump is a "first unit" and that the second unit comprises a suction hose 8 and an ejector 7. The Office action further alleges that the ejector 7 is provided with a second part of the coupling and that connecting hose 5 terminates with a first part of the coupling.

In fact, the Jacobsen et al patent shows only a single unit, with no selective couplings which can be removed and reconnected. The single ROV unit shown in Jacobsen et al includes a water pump 12, corresponding to pump 3 of the invention, and an ejector 5 which corresponds to ejector 5 of the invention. However, the pump and the ejector are connected rigidly together; there is no removable coupling disposed between first and second units which can be used to separate the ejector from the pump.

The claimed invention makes it is possible to quickly and easily replace the ejector and attached hoses by detaching the first and second coupling parts. Once detached, the embodiment of Fig. 1 can be easily replaced by the embodiment of Fig. 2, 3, 4 or 5, as needed, without opening the first unit.

To the extent that there is a hose attached to water pump 12 of Jacobsen et al, that hose is attached directly to the nozzle in the ejector, which is located within the ROV unit. It is not possible to quickly and easily substitute a new ejector embodiment, since the ejector is completely within the unit.

The Edvardsen patent is directed to an end piece arrangement for sealing an annular space between a sleeve pipe and a drill stem, and while the patent relates to an arrangement for the removal of cuttings from drilling

operations, it is not an ejector based system and cannot be used with alternating hoses of different lengths. The end piece arrangement 20 functions as a controlling and centering arrangement for correctly positioning drill stem 12 relative to sleeve pipe 18, template 14 and base unit 16, and at the same time, the end piece arrangement 20 ensures a substantially fluid-tight seal between the drill stem 12 and the sleeve pipe 18. See column 2, lines 28-33.

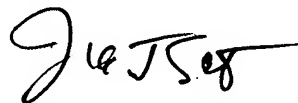
The advantage of the Edvardsen patent is said to be that only two components, end piece 20 and conduit system 22 are mounted in the installation. However, neither of these components are arranged for swift or easy replacement and while the Office action cites conduit 22 as being an "ejector discharge hose" there is no disclosure or suggestion of the use of an ejector at all in the Edvardsen patent.

The rejection of Claim 10 under 35 USC 103(a) over Jacobsen et al is thought to have been rendered moot by the cancellation of the claimed subject matter, not shown in the drawings.

Withdrawal of these rejections is requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. An early allowance of the application with amended claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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